

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00

NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /059 W

----- 078055

R 011525Z MAR 76

FM AMCONSUL OPORTO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 808

INFO AMEMBASSY LISBON

DIA WASHDC

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY VIENNA

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMCONSUL PONTA DELGADA

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E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, PFOR, PO

SUBJ: OPORTO MEETING OF EUROPEAN SOCIALIST LEADERS

REF: LISBON 1290 (DTG 271710Z FEB 76) NOTAL

1. ACCORDING TO LOCAL PRESS, EUROPEAN SOCIALIST LEADERS WILL GATHER IN OPORTO MARCH 13/14 AT THE INVITATION OF PORTUGUESE SOCIALIST (PS) SEC GEN MARIO SOARES. TWO-DAY SESSION WILL BE DEVOTED TO "POLITICAL STRATEGY OF SOCIALIST AND SOCIAL-DEMOCRATIC PARTIES IN EUROPE" UNDER MAIN THEME OF "PORTUGAL AND EUROPE." OPORTO MEETING IS DESCRIBED AS FOLLOW-UP TO RECENT HELSINGOR GATHERING AND JUNE, 1975 CREATION OF AD HOC "COMMITTEE FOR THE DEFENSE OF DEMOCRACY IN PORTUGAL" WHICH IS HEADED BY WILLY BRANDT. IN ADDITION TO BRANDT, OTHER INVITEES INCLUDE OLOF PALME,

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BRUNO KREISKY, ANKER JERGENSEN, DENT UYL, FRANCOIS MITTERAND,

FRANCESCO DE MARTINO AND FILIPE GONZLES (SECGEN OF SPANISH SOCIALIST WORKER PARTY). BRITISH LABOR PARTY REPORTEDLY WILL SEND HIGH LEVEL SUBSTITUTION FOR HAROLD WILSON.

2. IN INTERVIEW WITH LOCAL REPORTER, SOARES CHARACTERIZED OPORTO MEETING AS "SIMPLY DOING JUSTICE" BY THE PEOPLE OF OPORTO AND THE NORTH WHO VOTED SOCIALIST IN FORCE LAST YEAR. SOARES SIDESTEPED QUESTION WHETHER SOCIALIST GATHERING WAS INTENDED AS PS ELECTION TACTIC. HE RESPONDED: "WE ONLY HOPE TO SENSITIZE SOCIALIST AND SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC LEADERS TO OUR PROBLEMS IN NORTHERN PORTUGAL AND WITH THE PORT WINE INDUSTRY."

3. COMMENT: THOUGH LOCAL PORT TRADE CONTINUES TO BE PLAGUED BY DIFFICULTIES WITH SYNTHETIC BRANDY, SOARES CLEARLY HAS MORE ON HIS MIND THAN WINE. PS HAS YET TO GET ITS ELECTION CAMPAIGN UNDERWAY IN THE NORTH UNLIKE A YEAR AGO WHEN PS ACTIVISTS HAD ALREADY COVERED AVAILABLE WALL SPACE WITH POSTERS AND PAINT. OPORTO IS HOME BASE OF MOST POPULAR DEMOCRATIC (PPD) DISSIDENTS WHO BOLTED PPD IN DECEMBER

AND REMAIN IN POLITICAL LIMBO BETWEEN PPD AND PS. LOCAL PS FORTUNES HAVE ALSO SAGGED BECAUSE OF OVER-IDENTIFICATION IN PEOPLES MINDS WITH ANGOLA AND RPA RECOGNITION, AGRARIAN REFORM AND AGRICULTURE MINISTER LOPES CARDOSO AND MARXISM IN GENERAL. APPEARANCE OF SUCH INTERNATIONAL FIGURES AS BRANDT WILL NOT CHANGE MINDS OF BACKWOODS CONSERVATIVE FARMERS. IT WILL HOWEVER GET PS CAMPAIGN OFF TO FLYING START IN URBAN AND INDUSTRIAL AREAS AND AMONG LEFT-OF-CENTER NON-COMMUNIST EDUCATED CLASS. PENNER

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** SOCIALISM, POLITICAL PARTIES, PARTY MEETINGS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 01 MAR 1976  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** morefirh  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1976OPORTO00094  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** D760077-0932  
**From:** OPORTO  
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**Image Path:**  
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**Line Count:** 89  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Office:** ACTION EUR  
**Original Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 2  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** 76 LISBON 1290  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** morefirh  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 02 FEB 2004  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <02 FEB 2004 by morefirh>; APPROVED <07 JUL 2004 by morefirh>  
**Review Markings:**

Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
04 MAY 2006

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** OPORTO MEETING OF EUROPEAN SOCIALIST LEADERS  
**TAGS:** PINT, PFOR, PO, XG, OPORTO, (SOARES, MARIO)  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006